

Weekly Status & Information Report
Week of December 19, 2005:

Offices Closed for the Holiday: Most City of Takoma Park offices will be closed from noon on Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26; then closed again on Monday, January 2. The Takoma Park Police Department is always open! Enter from the front parking lot at 7500 Maple Avenue. *(City Clerk)*

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase: Tenants residing at 219 Manor Circle (2 units) have received a notice that their rental property is on the market for sale. They have received a notice of their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. The asking price is \$500,000. At this time there is no third party contract. (Wards 3 and 6) *(Housing and Community Development)*

The Hampshire Towers Tenant Association: The Hampshire Tenant Association has continued to meet regarding their eventual purchase of the 448 unit property and will be interviewing developers who responded to a Request for Proposals. The interviewing process will start during the first week of January 2006. *(Housing and Community Development)*

Computer Center: One new computer room with 10 computers is available in the learning center to anyone ages 8 and older. There is no formal 'sign-up' as yet. In the future, Takoma Park Library cardholders will sign on using their cards and Internet use will be filtered for those under age 16. When both rooms are open, a total of 20 computers in two rooms will be available for group projects, guidance and instruction (Room A) and for individual users who need a quiet atmosphere (Room B).

Phil Shapiro is managing day to day use in the Computer rooms, with assistance from Shuko Tamao. Phil has been an educator and technology access activist in the Washington D.C. area since the 1980s, and brings extensive knowledge as well as enthusiasm to his new Takoma Park position. In January, Phil will teach a six week course to fledgling Internet users enrolled in the Recreation Department's after-school program. Students will learn how to create a wiki, blog, and Protopage in this class -- gaining skill in putting text, links and graphics on the web. The emphasis in this class will be on fun, learning-by-doing. Time permitting, students will learn some HTML - the language of the world wide web. *(Library)*

Women's Basketball Game: On Saturday November 19, Takoma Park Recreation Center took 16 children to the George Mason University Women's basketball game vs Mount Saint Mary's. The children had a lot of fun and they were able to shoot free throw shots on the game floor along with receiving autographs from both teams. *(Recreation)*

Basketball Programs: The Youth Exposed to Success Basketball program has 40 kids participating in our JV division (7th - 9th grade). Four teams are practicing this week in preparation for the season opener on Tuesday, January 3, at Takoma Park Middle School.

The Youth Community Basketball Program has 25 kids right now. Four teams will form in this 3rd/4th grade program. Practice and scrimmages begin Saturday, January 7, at Piney Branch Elementary School.

The Takoma Park Basketball League has 26 kids signed up. Four teams will form in this 5th/6th grade program. Team practices begin Tuesday, January 3, at Piney Branch Elementary School. *(Recreation)*

Indoor Soccer Program: The Indoor Soccer Program is also forming teams this week. The 1st/2nd grade division has 30 kids signed up and will begin team practices on Sunday, January 8, at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. The 3rd/4th grade division has 28 kids that will also begin team practices on the 8th at our rec center. *(Recreation)*

Friends of the Library: The Friends of the Library will fund an ongoing "Circle Time" in Spanish for pre-school age children and their care givers beginning in February. Guadalupe Barreda Mark, who conducted preschool programs in Spanish at the TESS Center and the Takoma Park Family Resource Center, will be developing and leading these programs. Further information will be available at the Library in January. *(Library)*